

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

INT-05 /078 W

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R 021042Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6125

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR PORG MP AG

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER WALTER'S REMARKS
ABOUT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 204517

AT LIBYAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 1, I ASKED EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER WALTER HIS IMPRESSIONS OF COLOMBO CONFERENCE. WITH A RATHER DISGUSTED TONE HE SAID, "THESE CONFERENCES ARE SUCH A WASTE OF TIME WHEN PEOPLE INSIST ON TRYING TO HAVE THEIR OWN WAY." HE EXPLAINED THAT COLOMBO SESSION "GOT COMPLETELY BOGGED DOWN" IN QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA. HE AND OTHER AFRICAN DELEGATES SPENT EXHAUSTING NUMBER OF HOURS, ON ONE OCCASION UNTIL 3 A.M. , TRYING TO MEDIATE DISPUTE. SIR HAROLD SAID ALGERIANS ARRIVED WITH 85 PEOPLE WHO ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE LOBBYING, TRYING TO DOMINATE THE ISSUE THROUGH SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS. IN THE END THEY HAD TO ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT AT THE OAU CONFERENCE IN JULY. "THIS SHOWS," SIR HAROLD SAID, "WHAT A WASTE OF TIME THE WHOLE BUSINESS WAS, SINCE THE OUTCOME AT COLOMBO DIDN'T ADVANCE THE
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QUESTION ONE INCH."

KEELEY

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Message Attributes

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